



# NEWS RELEASE

## COUNCILMEMBER MARTI EMERALD

### Seventh District

---

**Date:** October 8, 2009

**Contact:**

**Geni Cavitt**

**Phone:**

**619-236-6677**

**For Immediate Release**

**E-mail:**

**gcavitt@sandiego.gov**

---

## **COUNCILMEMBER EMERALD BLASTS MAYOR OVER WINTER HOMELESS SHELTER LOCATION**

### ***San Carlos Library Parking Lot Not Acceptable***

The location chosen by the Mayor's office is absolutely inappropriate for a winter homeless shelter. The Mayor's proposal would hoist a tent in front of the San Carlos Library, in the middle of a residential neighborhood, steps away from a school, and half a mile from the closest bus stop. "This proposal is insincere and disappointing. It leaves the impression the Mayor's office is not truly engaged in solving this dilemma over a winter shelter," said Seventh District Councilmember Marti Emerald.

In September, the Councilmember explored four sites in her district for a possible winter homeless shelter location but found none suitable:

- MCAS Miramar - security issues.
- Alvarado Hospital Campus – underused buildings and parking lots – they still provide needed parking and office space for hospital staff.
- Chollas Parkway – a short stretch of street between 54<sup>th</sup> and University – too close to a residential neighborhood, there is not a large enough paved area for a shelter, traffic control, and difficulty bringing utilities to the site.
- SDSU Chapultepec Hall - the closed SDSU dormitory -- restrictions on occupancy – only students may reside on campus.

In addition to the reasons listed, these sites lack transportation for the homeless to reach the services they need. Ultimately, this brings us back to downtown San Diego, the main transportation hub for the City and where most of the homeless and social services are located. Councilmember Emerald added, "We do need to create a regional and holistic fix for the challenge of homelessness but today our priority must be picking a downtown shelter site so the homeless have a safe place to stay during the winter."

###